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THE CASE

OF THE

Manufacturers, and Workers of Copper and Brass, Wire,
and Battrey or Brass Kettles, &c. in *England*.

ALTHO' there has, for above One Hundred and Fifty Years past, been several Mines of Copper found out in this Kingdom, yet the said Mines having not, till of late, been brought to any great Perfection, and the Quantity of Copper produced from them being but small, the several Manufactures of Copper and Brass, which are used in great Quantities among us, such as Wire, thin Sheet Brass called Black Lattin, Battrey or Brass Kettles, Black Ware or Mettle-prepared, and the like, have all, till within these few Years, been brought in from Abroad, to the great Expence of Money, and Dammage of the Trade of this Kingdom.

But the Art of Working in Copper and Brass, as well as the Producing, Fining, and Preparing the Ore, having with great Industry, Application, and Expence, been for some Time past brought to great Perfection in *England*, all the Manufactures aforesaid are now Wrought and Finished as well here in *England*, as can be obtain'd from Abroad; by which many Thousand Families are daily Employ'd, and the Money which purchased the Foreign Wrought Brass, as abovesaid, is brought to circulate, and be expended at Home.

And altho' the Importation of Foreign Wrought Brass, &c. has not been at all interrupted by Law, or any Thing done that Way, for the encouraging the said Manufactures at Home, as has been usual in like Cases, the Success of the Undertakers here wholly depending upon the Goodness of their Performance, yet they have brought their Works to such a Perfection, notwithstanding the great Losses and Disappointments, which generally New Undertakings are subjected to, as to equal, or rather exceed, the like Goods from Abroad, in real Goodness and Value. But they find themselves under some Inequalities, in respect to the Laws of Trade, which tend to Discouragement of Industry, and the Disadvantages of Home-Trade in General, as well as to their Manufacture in Particular; the said Laws giving some Priviledges to the Foreign Goods, which are deny'd to the *British* Manufactures; these they crave Leave to lay before this Honourable House, humbly hoping that they may at least be put upon an equal Foot of Trade with the Foreign Manufactures of the same kind, and that they may not be shut out from the Common Advantage of selling their Goods to as much Profit as Strangers, especially in Her Majesties own Dominions.

The said Discouragements, and Inequalities, are as follows.

I. That the Foreigners, who by their Poor working cheap, and many other Advantages, are generally able to undersell our Manufactures, as they pay a considerable Duty on Importation of the said Wrought Brass, &c. so upon exporting the said Goods again to our Colonies, Plantations, and other Her Majesties Dominions, they receive back the said Duty, by De-benture, a very small Part excepted: By this Means the said Colonies, which are esteemed as our own Consumption, are wholly supplied with Foreign Goods, and the *English* Manufacturers entirely shut out.

II. They are also greatly obstructed, by an Antient Difference allowed at the Custom-House, between Battrey, or Wrought Kettles, on one Hand, and what they call Metal-prepared, which ought to be only Lumps of Brass imported to be Wrought here, on the other Hand; which Metal-prepared, as now allow'd to be entred, appears to be really finished Battrey, or Kettles, differing only in Colour, and are Sold as such, with a small Addition of Work, which costs not above One Shilling per Hundred Charge, yet being allow'd to be Imported as meer Lumps of Metal were formerly Imported, they pay 11 s. per Hundred less Duty; besides a Fraud, very easy to be practised by unfair Traders, in finishing them here, and then Exporting them again as imported Battrey, and thereby drawing back 26 s. per Hundred upon that which paid but 19 s. Inward; all which tends, both to the lessening Her Majesties Revenue, and to the great Disadvantage and Discouragement of the *English* Manufacturers now Petitioning.

III. They are also farther obstructed, by the Importation of a certain Sort of Wrought Brass call'd Black Lattin, which being equal in Use, and in Value of Workmanship, to the Battrey itself; yet being charg'd at but 9 s. 6 d. per Hundred Duty on the Importation, and drawing back 8 s. 6 d. thereof again on the Exportation, is thereby enabled to undersell the said Manufacturer of Battrey, &c. tho' nothing makes the Difference thereof at Market but the Difference of the said Duty.

These Three Grievances being so great an Obstruction to the Home-Trade, and so great a Discouragement to the Employment of the Poor, and to the future Encrease and Improvement of the said Manufacture, are the Sum of their Petition, in which they pray,

That this Honourable House will be pleased to take the same into their Consideration, and that, for the encouraging the Home-Trade, and setting them on an equal Foot with Foreigners in their Trade to our own Plantations, the said Draw-backs may be taken off from Foreign Wrought Brass, Exported by Certificate; and that Black Kettles, which really are the same as finished Battrey, about One Shilling per Hundred excepted, as above, and Black Lattin may be fairly entred, and pay as Battrey, as abovesaid; the Want of which, as is humbly conceived, is a great Loss to the Revenue, as well as ruinous to the Trade, and contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of the Act of Parliament which laid the said Duties.

All which is humbly submitted to this Honourable House

OF THE
MANUFACTURERS, and Workers of Copper and Brass Wire,
and of the Manufacturers of Brass and Copper in England.

THE following is a list of the names of the Manufacturers and Workers of Copper and Brass Wire, and of the Manufacturers of Brass and Copper in England, who have been admitted to the right of voting at the General Meeting of the Association, to be held at the City of London, on the 1st day of January, 1844, in pursuance of the provisions of the Act of Parliament, bearing date the 1st day of July, 1843, in that behalf directed.

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